

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are pending. Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 5, and 9 to further clarify the claims. Thus, no new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action objects to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter; objects to Claim 1 because of the phrase “air containing oxygen”; rejects Claims 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention; rejects Claims 1-4, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Conrad (U.S. Pat. No. 5,130,003); and rejects claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Conrad in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,417,936).

In response to the objection to the specification, Applicants have amended the specification to describe the meaning of the term “Metglass,” as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

In regard to the objection to Claim 1, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to further clarify the claim, as suggested by the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 1 be withdrawn.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 5 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended Claim 5 to delete the term “type” and amended the specification to describe the meaning of the term “Metglass.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 5 and 9 be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1-4, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for the following reasons.

Applicants note that Claim 1 cites “means for providing oxygen”, “means for generating ozone”, “means for providing a first pulse signal”, and “means for transforming”, and this claim language is intended to invoke an interpretation under U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office “carries the burden of proof for showing that the prior art structure or step is the same as or equivalent to the structure, material, or acts described in the specification which has been identified as corresponding to the claimed means or step plus function.”<sup>1</sup>

Applicant submits that the Office Action neglects to show that the prior art structure or step is the same as or equivalent to the structure, material, or acts described in the specification which has been identified as corresponding to the claimed means function. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn. Should the Office continue to maintain that Claim 1 is unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Conrad, Applicants respectfully request the Office to point out in a non-final Office Action how the prior art structure or step is the same as or equivalent to the structure, material, or acts described in the specification which has been identified as corresponding to the claimed means function, so that Applicants may have the opportunity to reply completely.

Claims 2-4, 8, and 9 depend on Claim 1. For at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 2-4, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Conrad does not teach or suggest at least a first pulse provision means, in response to a control signal, generates a second pulse signal having an ON/OFF time ratio depending on the control signal and a third pulse signal optimized for an electrical discharge, and mixes the second and third pulse signals, thereby

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<sup>1</sup> See MPEP § 2182.

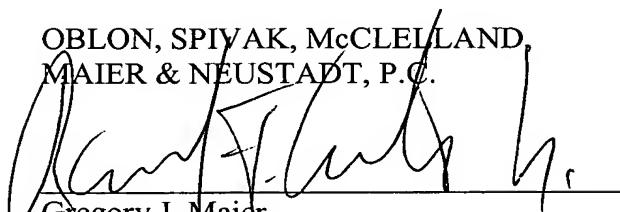
generating a first pulse signal, as recited in Claim 3; a second pulse signal that has a relatively lower-frequency than that of a third pulse signal, and each of a first pulse signal and the third pulse signal has an identical frequency and a different ON/OFF time ratio, as recited in Claim 4; and a transformation means that includes a core made of an amorphous alloy having high saturation magnetic flux and low loss characteristics, as recited in Claim 9.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 5-7 depend on Claim 1. For at least the reasons given above with respect to Claim 1, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Thereby, by the present response each of the issues set forth in the outstanding Office Action is believed to have been fully addressed, and the present application is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested this case now be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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